

Malmesbury Town Council

Minutes of the **Policy & Resources Committee** held on **Wednesday 7th October 2020**
commencing at 7.00pm via zoom

Present: Councillors P Exton, L G Grant (Vice-Chair), W R Jones (Chair), K Power,
M Ritchie, P Smith, F Vandelli

Others Present: Gill Davie (Minutes), Richard Spencer Williams (Clerk)

- 1. Declarations of Interest:** None
- 2. Apologies for Absence:** Cllr S D'Arcy
- 3. Public Question Time:** There were no public questions
- 4. To receive and adopt the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 2nd September 2020**

Resolved that the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 2nd September 2020 be received and adopted as a true and accurate record of the meeting

Proposed Cllr Jones **Seconded** Cllr Smith

- 5. To receive the Financial Report for Quarter 2 (Report No 1, Town Clerk)**

The Town Clerk provided an overview and explained the budgetary items highlighted in his report. A question was raised over the cinema with regard to recent developments with commercial cinemas.

The level of detail in the report was welcomed by the committee. Accounting for the impact of Covid 19, the budget was in line with what was expected at this stage of the financial year

The update was received and duly considered

- 6. To receive for consideration and adoption the amended draft Equalities Policy (Report No 2 Town Clerk)**

The Town Clerk reminded the committee that when the Equalities Policy was discussed last year it was concluded that a Diversity section should be included in the policy. The Committee are keen to encourage greater diversity when co-opting Councillors and in the composition of working groups. It was noted that the policy should address both direct and indirect discrimination and the Town Clerk should amend the wording accordingly.

Proposed To adopt this policy subject to the amendments.

Proposed Cllr Jones **Seconded** Cllr Vandelli

7. To receive an update on the Cemetery Lodge refurbishment (Report No 3 Town Clerk)

The Town Clerk reported that the internal preparatory work had been completed, the kitchen refit is nearly complete as is the bathroom. The next job is to put in new flooring throughout. Generally, it is making pretty good progress. A problem had been identified with the chimney and as soon as the weather improves the work will be completed on that. Garden and patio area still need work.

It was suggested that once the work was complete a valuation on the property should be obtained so that return on investment can be measured in the coming years. Members of the committee were encouraged to visit the Lodge

The update was received and noted

8. To consider the grant application by Malmesbury Climate Action Network (Report No 4 Town Clerk)

The Climate Action Network aim to hold an event each month. The last being the David Attenborough film shown in September. If the grant is approved it will be possible to show the film 2040 in November, as a live stream event. The tickets will be free.

It was suggested that CAN should produce a high-level overview of the extent of their activities being planned. Cllr Grant agreed to produce the report for the Full Council to consider. It was also suggested future activities could be promoted on the Council website.

Proposed To support the application to award a grant of £200 to Malmesbury Climate Action Network

Proposed Cllr Ritchie **Seconded** Cllr Vandelli

9. To receive an update on Wiltshire Council's Covid 19 Safety Measures on the High Street and consider the options for Malmesbury Town Council's capability to support or contribute to any next phase scheme, including a financial contribution if relevant and required

The Town Clerk provided an update from a conference call earlier in the day regarding the proposed plan for the High Street. The solution discussed is a balanced approach taking account of the expressed needs from the community and retailers, Covid 19, highway safety requirements and parking needs. Questions were asked over the allocation of parking spaces (especially around the Wild Food Co and the King's Arms), the positioning of the planters and the spacing between cones.

Suggestions were made to remove some cones and replace them with more planters (with reflective devices) thereby minimising cost.

It was agreed that the solution should be presented to the retailers at the earliest opportunity as the best solution to enable swift turnover of parking for shoppers on the High Street. The timing for installation could work well to fit in with plans for the High Street in the run up to Christmas.

The committee were in broad agreement with this approach once changes to the cones and the planters are incorporated in the plan. Malmesbury Town Council would commit to making a reasonable sum available towards the cost of this plan, considering the extra costs of planting and maintaining the planters. The aim would be to diminish these costs by seeking sponsorship for the planters.

Proposed To principally support the financial contribution in partnership with Wiltshire Council to this scheme for the High Street subject to the changes highlighted above

Proposer Cllr Jones **Seconded** Cllr Grant

Proposed To delegate authority for final agreement with Wiltshire Council to the Chair of the P&R Committee, Mayor, Deputy Mayor and the Town Clerk

Proposed Cllr Grant **Seconded** Cllr Jones

10 To exclude the press and public for item 11 on the grounds of confidentiality and commercial sensitivity

Proposed Cllr Jones **Seconded** Cllr Grant

11 To consider the matter of rent reviews for the tenants of the Flying Monk Ground site (Report No 5 Town Clerk)

The Committee considered the rents from the tenants at the Flying Monk Ground site.

Proposed Not to require rent from Athelstan Players until they are able to put on an event to generate income and to review this in April 2021. To offer a concession of 30% reduction to the Football and Boxing clubs to take account of their loss of earnings due to Covid 19 and to support their recovery plans. A reminder that payment is due to be sent.

Proposed Cllr Jones **Seconded** Cllr Power

The meeting ended at 21.49pm

Signed:

Date:

